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October 10, 1960

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Cables STANMED

Dr. Peter Sneath
National Institute for Medical Research
Mill Hill
London N.W. 7, England

Dear Peter:

After this unwarranted delay on my part, I am trying to finish up the manuscript on periodate. The accompanying text embodies what we have talked about and I will be quite agreeable to forwarding it in this form or together with whatever final corrections you would like to make.

I am still a little uneasy about the experiment in what is now Table II. It certainly does indicate that the treatment of the male cells with periodate prevents the effective formation of mating pairs that would be revealed by plate recombinants. However, one essential datum is really still missing, namely, that pairs once formed are no longer influenced by periodate. This is mentioned without serious documentation at the beginning of the paragraph to which Table II refers. I do not recall a really satisfactory experiment on this point and, while it is not unimportant, if it is lacking I don't suppose there is much to do about it. Until I read the experiment of Table II more closely, I thought there had been a control - that pre-mixed parents could then be exposed to periodate without severely impairing the yield of recombinants.

I will follow your lead on this point and send the manuscript in without delay as soon as you have returned it with your approval and any last minute corrections.

Yours sincerely,

Am best to Joan!

Joshua Lederberg
Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

JL/jh
Enc. ms.